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Chrono
17 Aug 77

DCI/IC 77-2530

17 AUG 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Deputy to the DCI for the
Intelligence Community

FROM:

Director of Performance Evaluation and Improvement

SUBJECT: Intelligence Community Staff Assessment: "Intelligence
Production in Support of International Human Rights
Initiatives of the US Government"

1. Attached is an assessment prepared within the Production Assessment and Improvement Division of the Office of Performance Evaluation and Improvement concerning user satisfaction with Intelligence Community products relating to human rights. Also attached is a memorandum forwarding the assessment to the DCI should you consider such action appropriate.

2. As the Key Judgments indicate, there appears to be a high degree of satisfaction with Community production relating to human rights. Some suggestions were received from users within the National Security Council staff and the Department of State as to specific topics on which reports or studies might be produced, and these have been passed along informally to [REDACTED], as the DCI's special representative for human rights. Nevertheless, users are pleased with Community products and consider the current level of analytical and production effort adequate. 25X1A

3. We have pointed out in the attached memorandum for the DCI that the level of user approval of Community production on human rights, as determined by this assessment, should provide a framework for integrating this topic more formally into Community requirements/collection mechanisms as well as developing guidelines for future analysis and production.

25X1A

/s/

Attachment:
DCI/IC 77-2531

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18 AUG 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: John N. McMahon
Acting Deputy to the DCI for the
Intelligence Community

SUBJECT: Intelligence Community Staff Assessment: "Intelligence
Production in Support of Human Rights Initiatives of
the US Government"

1. Action Requested: None, for information only.
2. Background: Human rights is a new topic of concern to this Administration that does not fit neatly into the traditional intelligence subject compartments. This study was self-initiated by the Intelligence Community Staff (ICS) to see if users are satisfied with production in this potentially sensitive area. The results of our survey are:
 - a. Users rate the timeliness, quality, and coverage of intelligence products on the human rights issue as good to excellent and consider the output of the Intelligence Community on this topic to have been properly focused and of considerable value in the formulation of US foreign policies.
 - b. User/producer interaction is good. Informal but effective mechanisms exist for users to critique intelligence products on human rights to make reporting more responsive to their needs.
 - c. The content of intelligence products on human rights suggests that guidance being provided to intelligence collectors is adequate to produce a data base sufficient to support analysis and reporting.
 - d. Intelligence reporting is only one useful source of information about international human rights, and users are able to integrate intelligence products with other information already in their possession from non-intelligence sources.

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e. In using limited analytical resources in support of the development and implementation of US policies on human rights, the Community should emphasize current reporting supplemented by near to mid-term analyses with correspondingly less expenditure of resources for production of long-term research studies.

3. With the addition of human rights as a specific topic in DCID 1/2, we believe that the subject is receiving satisfactory coverage and treatment within the Intelligence Community and make no specific recommendations.

/s/ JOHN N. McMAHON

John N. McMahon

Attachment

Assessment of Community Products
relating to Human Rights

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ATTACHMENT

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INTELLIGENCE PRODUCTION IN SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN
RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE US GOVERNMENT

Key Judgments:

1. (U) Users rate the timeliness, quality, and coverage of intelligence products on the human rights issue as good to excellent and consider the output of the Intelligence Community on this topic to have been properly focused and of considerable value in the formulation of US foreign policies.
2. (U) User/producer interaction is good. Informal but effective mechanisms exist for users to critique intelligence products on human rights to make reporting more responsive to their needs.
3. (U) The content of intelligence products on human rights suggests that guidance being provided to intelligence collectors is adequate to produce a data base sufficient to support analysis and reporting.
4. (U) Intelligence reporting is only one useful source of information about international human rights, and users are able to integrate intelligence products with other information already in their possession from non-intelligence sources.
5. (U) In using limited analytical resources in support of the development and implementation of US policies on human rights, the Community should emphasize current reporting, supplemented by near to mid-term analyses, with correspondingly less expenditure of resources for production of long-term research studies.

BACKGROUND

(U) Efforts to promote international respect for human rights have become an integral part of US foreign policy; consequently, monitoring and reporting on human rights is now a requirement of US establishments abroad, both diplomatic and intelligence. In view of these factors, the Intelligence Community Staff has conducted a survey of producers and users of intelligence on human rights to review and assess Community analytical and production efforts, assess consumer satisfaction and needs, and to determine whether human rights reporting is properly focused. The survey has been directed toward identifying possible gaps in user/producer interaction, particularly with respect to intelligence product critique and collection guidance.

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(U) To place the human rights issue in perspective, it should be viewed as one of several non-traditional intelligence topics including technology transfer, arms transfers, terrorism, and nuclear proliferation, on which information is needed to support US global policy concerns. Unlike the more traditional intelligence areas such as strategic intentions or military-related research and development, much information on international human rights developments is openly available. This is the case even with communist or other adversary countries because media and other extra-governmental channels provide for the dissemination of a continuing flow of information concerning human rights. Thus, the preparation of timely and accurate reports on this topic requires analysis of voluminous data from overt and semi-overt sources, as well as information collected through the use of intelligence assets.

ORGANIZATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS INTELLIGENCE:

(C) The bulk of human rights-related intelligence reports are derived from human sources, although technical collectors, namely NSA, have contributed to finished intelligence production. For this reason, the overall quality of Intelligence Community product on human rights depends to a great degree on the guidance provided US embassies and CIA stations abroad. The Department of State has transmitted instructions making human rights a priority subject for reporting by embassies and consular posts in countries of interest. CIA/DDO has also alerted its stations to provide information on significant human rights events. These formal requirements are supplemented by guidance obtained informally by field reporting officers from briefings in Washington, discussions with official visitors to foreign posts, and from their own professional knowledge of US interests in the area.

(C) Within CIA, the International Issues Division (IID) of the Office of Regional and Political Affairs (ORPA) produces a "Watching Brief" on a weekly basis, summarizing significant human rights events. Designated human rights referents within ORPA's area divisions are responsible for contributing items suitable for inclusion in the "Watching Brief." In addition to internal Intelligence Community dissemination, the "Watching Brief" is distributed to selected recipients within the State Department and the National Security Council. To supplement the "Watching Brief," ad hoc analytical reports have been produced by ORPA on human rights related issues within specific geographical and topical areas.

(C) State/INR reporting parallels CIA's with the issuance by INR's Directorate for Research of a weekly publication summarizing current international events pertinent to human rights and by the production of

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ad hoc products by the INR area divisions. The State Department uses Intelligence Community products, together with Foreign Service reporting and other overt sources, in preparing its annual report to the Congress on human rights practices in countries proposed for US military aid under the Arms Export Control Act of 1976.

(C) Responding to internal Defense Department requirements for intelligence reporting on factors which may affect US multi and bilateral military relations with other countries, security assistance policies, or other concerns of the military services and the Secretary of Defense, DIA has produced both current and mid range evaluations of foreign perceptions of US human rights policies and of the intentions of other countries to react, respond to, or accommodate US initiatives.

ASPECTS OF USER REQUIREMENTS:

(C) User demand for intelligence information concerning human rights has called for concise field reporting on current developments, near-term analyses on selected geographic and topical issues of immediate concern to policymakers, and less emphasis on in-depth studies of the long-term effects of developments and trends. Working relationships between users and producers have not been institutionalized, and production by the Intelligence Community has, to a significant degree, been the result of self-tasking. The offices of the Deputy Director for National Intelligence and the DCI's representative on human rights offer mechanisms through which users may alert intelligence producers concerning specific policy issues relating to human rights requiring intelligence support.

(C) User requirements have been fulfilled for the most part by receipt of current finished intelligence products, supplemented by CIA/DDO, attache, and foreign service field reporting. Much unclassified information on international human rights events is generally available through governmental and non-governmental channels, and users have been able to integrate intelligence products with information already in their possession from non-intelligence sources.

SUMMARY

(U) Users rate the timeliness, quality, and coverage of intelligence products relating to human rights issues as good to excellent and consider the output of the Intelligence Community of this topic to have been of value in the formulation of US foreign policies. Users endorse the present production mix, which favors current reporting over long range analysis, provided sufficient analytical resources remain available to balance current reporting with ad hoc mid-term analyses on selected geotopical subjects. Users consider the level of the Community's analytical effort to be adequate and the informal mechanisms now utilized for user/producer interaction both responsive and sensitive to user needs.

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